

2010



# **CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**Presentation to Delta Stewardship Council Committee  
November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010**



# **Acknowledgments**

**Prepared by Department of Water Resources  
in coordination with Cal EMA**

**Reviewed by Steering Committee of CA  
Water Plan**

## **Drafting Team:**

- **CWP staff: Kamyar Guivetchi, Lewis Moeller, Megan Fidell, Tom Filler**
- **Drought staff: Wendy Martin, Doug Osugi, Thang (Vic) Nguyen**

# Overview

- **Purpose**
- **Communication and Coordination structure (Figure 1)**
- **Agency roles and responsibilities (Attachment 1)**
- **Drought management strategies**
- **Action plans (Before, During, & After)—  
Table 2—Responding to a Drought**
- **Next steps**

# **Drought Contingency Plan Purpose**

**To minimize drought impacts by**

- **improving agency coordination;**
- **enhancing monitoring and early warning capabilities;**
- **water shortage impact assessments; and**
- **preparedness, response and recovery programs**



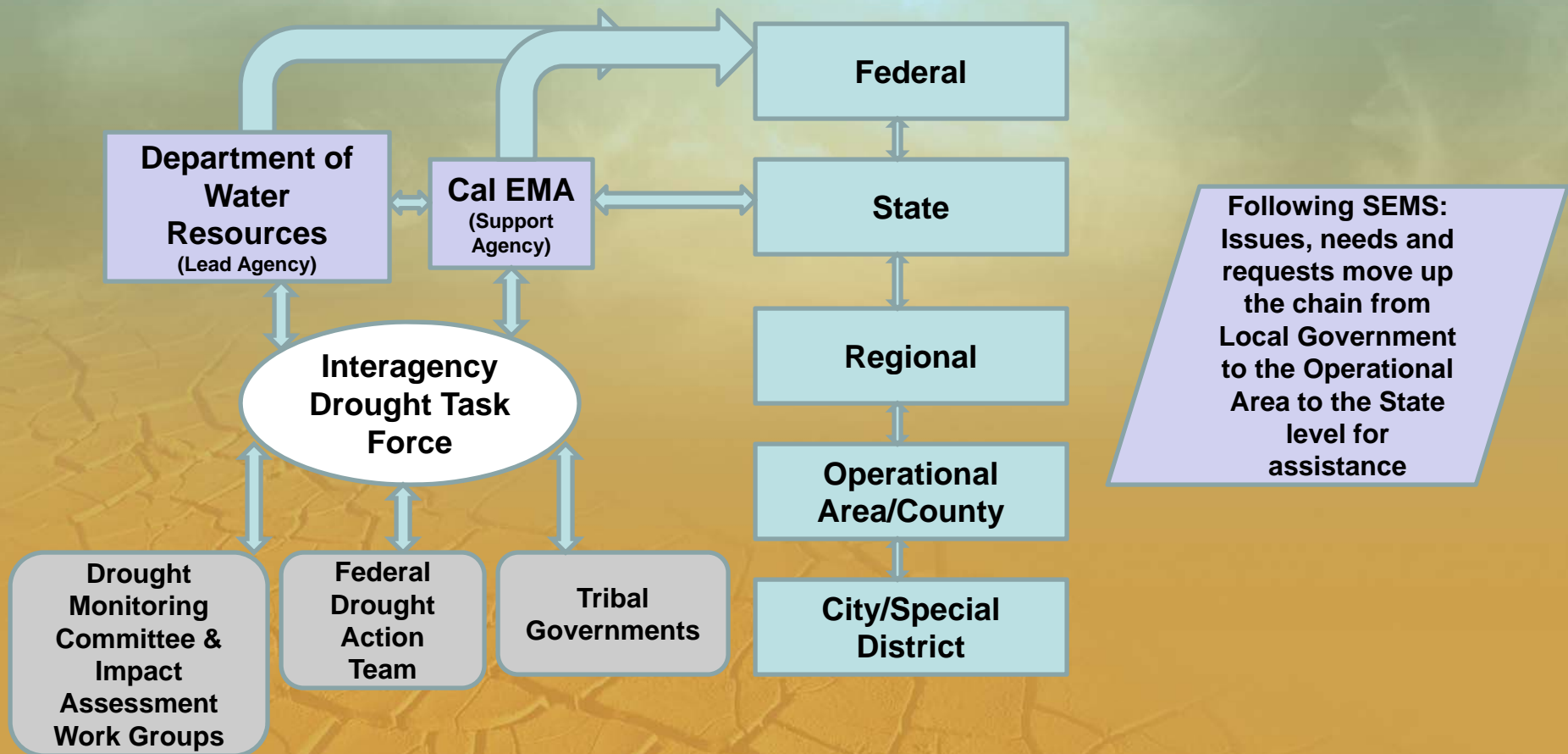
# **Drought Contingency Plan**

- **Recommends framework for agency planning and coordination**
- **Identifies activities to minimize drought impacts**
- **Identifies agencies and their roles**
- **Promotes effective use of resources**

# **Drought Contingency Plan**

- **Part of the CWP process**
- **Updated every 5 years or as needed**
- **Will include updated information, technology, and strategies**
- **Flexible and adaptable**

# Communication & Coordination Structure (Figure 1, following SEMS)



# **DWR and Cal EMA Drought Response**

- **Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) - Local, Regional, State, then Federal response**
- **DWR chairs Interagency Drought Task Force with support from Cal EMA**
  - **DWR - overall drought coordination**
  - **Cal EMA - emergency response and recovery**
- **Coordination through DWR and Cal EMA Regional Offices**



# **Interagency Drought Task Force**

- **Convened by DWR and Cal EMA in coordination with Governor's Office**
- **Comprised of executive and policy-level managers**
- **Provides policy direction to Work Groups & Committees**
- **Functions within existing agency authorities, responsibilities, and funding**
- **Coordinates with federal, local, and tribal agencies, and stakeholders**

# **Drought Monitoring Committee/ Impact Assessment Work Groups**

- **Members from agencies responsible for monitoring weather, water supply or impacts**
- **Monitor water supply and drought conditions—objective is to develop “early warning”**
- **Assess impacts on sectors and regions**
- **Provide on-going information and web-based reports**

# Preparing for a Drought

- **18 Resource management strategies from CWP**  
(ex, surface storage, desalinization, recycled water, urban & agricultural water use efficiency, etc.)
- **Highlighted strategies and activities:**
  - **Drought preparedness workshops**
  - **Drought monitoring and forecasting**
  - **Water transfers**
  - **Public education and outreach (statewide “Save our Water” campaign, 20% by 2020)**
  - **Mobile desalinization**

# Responding to a Drought

- **Local agency**
  - **Local emergency proclamation to use funds and resources**
  - **Local ordinances**
- **Water agency**
  - **Voluntary or mandatory conservation**
  - **Rate increase, restrictions, other measures**
- **State agency**
  - **Governor's emergency proclamation**
  - **Agency actions directed by Executive Orders**
  - **Request federal assistance**



# Recovering from a Drought

- **Post-drought evaluation**
- **Assist with relief programs**
- **Restore operations**
- **Final meeting of Task Force**
- **Final Drought report**

# **Potential Agency Roles and Responsibilities (Attachment 1)**

- **Identifies federal, State, local agencies and other organizations**
- **Lists potential roles and responsibilities in drought management**

# **Table 2- Potential Actions by Agencies in Responding to a Drought**

## **Level 1- Abnormally Dry**

- Activate Drought Operations Center & Drought Monitoring Committee, increase communications, Issue drought advisory

## **Level 2 – First Stage Drought**

- Expedite water transfers, increase water savings and conservation, enhanced public outreach.

## **Level 3 – Severe Drought**

- Convene Interagency Task Force following Emergency Drought Proclamation
- Deploy local water supply augmentation
- Coordinate mutual aid assistance

## **Table 2- Potential Actions by Agencies in Responding to a Drought.....**

### **Level 4 – Extreme Drought**

- Impose restrictions as needed for affected areas under Governors emergency powers
- Highest levels of conservation enforced
- Focus of transfers for potable water use.

### **Level 5 – Exceptional Drought**

- Water cutbacks to health and safety needs only.
- Facilitate Mutual Aid requests for assistance to provide increased security due to severe water cutbacks.
- Activate National Guard
- Staff State Emergency Operations center.



# Next Steps

- Coordinate with local, State, federal, and tribal officials
- Better define drought trigger levels
- Formation of:
  - Interagency Drought Task Force
  - Drought Monitoring Committee
  - Impact Assessment Work Groups

SHOWER  
WITH A  
FRIEND



STAGE 3

SHOWER  
WITH A  
CROWD



STAGE 4

DMCH

# Questions?



Visit us at  
[www.water.ca.gov/drought](http://www.water.ca.gov/drought)